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Letter dated 14 December 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 14 December 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-39545 (E) 151298

Annex

Letter dated 14 December 1998 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 11, 17, 18, 23, 25, 30 November and 1, 7 December 1998 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contain allegations on "violations of the airspace of the Republic" (A/53/663-S/1998/1065, A/53/675-S/1998/1088, A/53/687-S/1998/1102, A/53/703-S/1998/1119, A/53/720-S/1998/1136, A/53/721-S/1998/1137, A/53/724-S/1998/1145, A/53/733-S/1998/1152).

It will be recalled that similar unfounded allegations of so-called airspace violations were rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 11 November 1998 (A/53/665-S/1998/1074). I will, therefore, confine myself to reiterating that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State over which the usurper Greek Cypriot regime in the South has no jurisdiction or any right of say whatsoever.

It is regrettable that the Greek Cypriot side is still pursuing a campaign of misinformation on the Cyprus question, paralleled by a reckless policy of escalation and militarization.

The recent public pronouncements of Greek Cypriot officials, including those of Mr. Glafkos Clerides, have indicated that the Greek Cypriot side is intent on expanding further its military purchases and in particular on deploying the S-300 missiles in South Cyprus, in spite of strong international opposition. The completion of the Paphos military airbase and the ongoing construction of a naval base at Zyghi for the use of fighter aircraft and naval vessels belonging to Greece, as well as other military preparations in South Cyprus, constitute a clear threat to peace and stability in the island and the region (see paras. 4-8 of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Cyprus contained in document S/1998/1149, dated 7 December 1998).

We hope that, under the circumstances, all parties interested in a peaceful settlement of the dispute would counsel the Greek Cypriot side to give up its policy of tension in the island and cease forthwith the ongoing military build-up in South Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 32 and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus